



February Newsletter 2021

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It has been a mixed beginning to 2021 as far as the Parish Council is concerned so we want to share both the good and the not so good news with you.

### SPEEDING

First the good news... we have finally received more support from North Yorkshire Police (NYP) following our concerted efforts since the inception of the Parish Council. We are now the first parish in North Yorkshire to have both Community Speedwatch and Police Safety Cameras operating together. What really sealed it was the evidence produced by our Speed Indicator Devices which we send to NYP each month and having a NYP traffic expert speak and answer questions at our Parish Council meeting. NYP then organised deployment of a new version data logger (one without those giveaway cables stretched across the road) to confirm our data. They have now deployed speed camera vans on a few occasions and have caught several speeders. Long may their presence continue.

The not so good news is that Mark Siddall, our Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator will be leaving the parish. Mark helped set up the system and maintained an excellent relationship with NYP, so we extend our grateful thanks to him. Now all the hard work has been done, it should be an easy task to keep CSW running. Offers from volunteers will be warmly welcomed please – with one to act as co-ordinator and others to man the speed gun!

### PLANNING

Now the bad news... the Harrogate Borough Council Planning Committee permitted the construction of 13 properties on Rossett Green Lane which will be totally out of keeping with the site and desecrate the Special Landscape Area. For those of us who watched the committee meeting on YouTube it was obvious that some of those councillors have no idea why the Reserved Matters (those being detailed considerations regarding design / layout / appearance etc of an Outline Planning permission) came before the committee. Some slavishly followed the recommendation of the case officer, who patently also wanted the overbearing scheme to be allowed to pass. The saga appears to have been one of mismanagement from HBC from day one. When we consider applications at our Parish Council Planning Committee meetings, our councillors are fully prepared from having investigated the details and drawings beforehand – seemingly not always the case at HBC.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

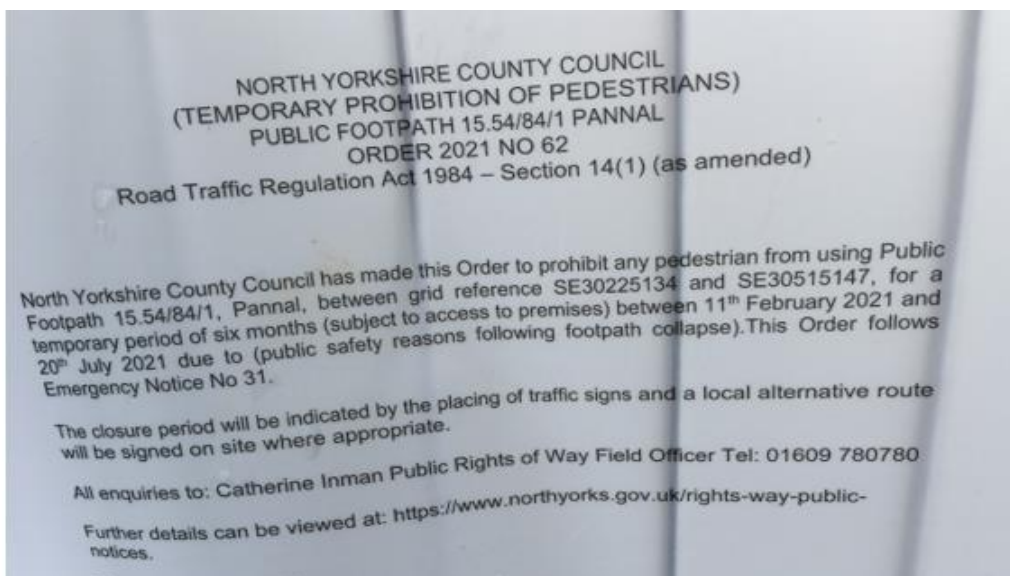
Thank you to those of you who volunteered to help in the continuation of our plan. We've had a meeting with our consultant and he will be setting out what extra information is required just before our next Parish Council meeting. We'll then be contacting those of you who volunteered.

## ELECTRIC CHARGING POINTS

It has been suggested that we investigate having some charging points for electric cars in the parish. Businesses and charities can get a grant for some installations so we will approach some of our local businesses to see if they're interested. The quick charge option is around £35,000 a unit, which is way beyond most budgets but the slower charge type is about one tenth of that, which could be interesting. We'll be contacting local businesses and charities to see if they're interested. The Parish Council endorses the scheme and would like to participate but, unfortunately, we do not own any land upon which chargers could be sited so our initiative possibility is somewhat limited.

## FOOTPATH

Please see the following notice from NYCC which is attached to the fencing blocking the footpath at both ends of the stretch from the Mill Pond to near the cricket field. Any questions should be addressed to the public rights of way officer - not to the parish council.



## WESTERN ARC INFRASTRUCTURE

The Western Arc Co-operation Group (of which P&BBPC is a member) gave a list of brainstormed ideas for improvements for traffic management. This included ideas on how to improve the route to and from the Western Arc sites and the A61 as well as into/out of town. This was in response to North Yorkshire County Councillor Don Mackenzie's request to "tell us what you want". Please bear in mind that NYCC employs full-time highways engineers and engages expensive consultants but, to-date, has failed to come up with any significant proposals, so he asked laymen like us who have no traffic engineering experience!

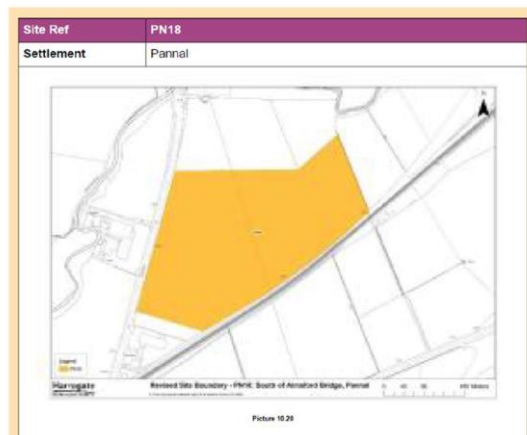
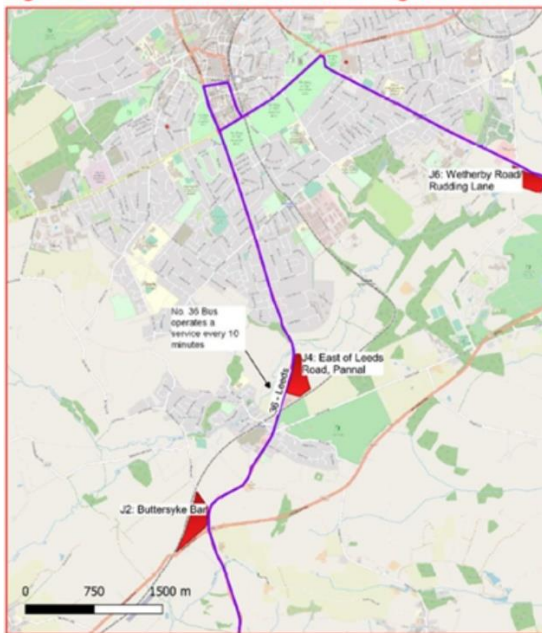
## PN18

HBC has advised us that they have engaged consultants to develop the area alongside the A61 down from the Mercedes garage towards town into an employment site. In their brief, HBC still includes category B8 buildings which are for storage and distribution – predominantly high-rise buildings. This just shows the lack of thinking or comprehension of their own conditions agreed in the Local Plan. We're following this very closely and will fight tooth and nail to minimise any despoiling of the Crimple Valley.

On a similar subject, NYCC announced at their Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency meeting that two sites near Pannal are being considered for Park and Ride. Logically, one is near Buttersyke Bar roundabout. When pressed on the subject, Cllr Mackenzie advised that the other seems to abut or even occupy part or the whole of PN18. That is the most ridiculous proposition as it could involve mixing

industrial estate traffic with busses and cars and increase congestion in Pannal. We're doing our best by lobbying to get this idea removed forthwith. Very few people (except maybe NYCC or HBC) are convinced that Park and Ride would work for such a small town as Harrogate. Oxford, certainly; York, on occasions; but here – another white elephant perhaps?

**Figure 3-19 - Location of Four Remaining Sites & Neart**

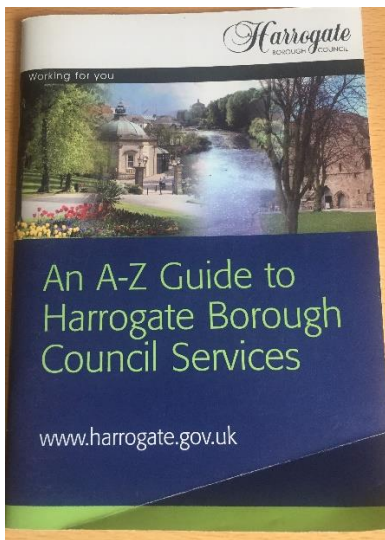


You'll note, if you look carefully at the maps, that the proposed site is bigger than PN18 and is in direct contradiction to the Local Plan Inspector's edict not to coalesce with Harrogate but to leave a distinct gap. We are writing to both councils to object in the strongest terms.

#### WHO DOES WHAT?

We have to revisit what was stated in our January newsletter as some parishioners still don't understand the role of the various councils – parish, borough and county. The understanding is not helped by misinformation coming from NYCC. As an example, provision of grit bins and gritting highways is the sole responsibility of NYCC, not your local Parish Council nor do we have a role in its decisions. Someone at NYCC has been wrongly suggesting otherwise.

Frequently, our parish clerk has been extremely helpful in directing parishioners to the correct authority for a variety of solutions. However, this kindness doesn't mean that the Parish Council is a conduit to HBC or NYCC. We have no role as an intermediary and our clerk is only employed for 12 hours per week. It is not part of her remit to field telephone calls on matters where it is not Parish Council responsibility. On the other hand, both HBC and NYCC have full-time responders and interactive websites. HBC issued a booklet some years ago to all households informing people who was responsible for what. Nothing much has changed in terms of responsibility since that was issued, so if you still have that booklet, please use it and indeed HBC and NYCC websites. Please help spread the word for us and ask neighbours to sign up for our newsletters.



This link: <https://my.harrogate.gov.uk/MyServices> offers a straightforward reporting system for many of the problems / instances that are locally experienced. We hope you find it helpful.

#### YLCA HARROGATE DISTRICT BRANCH MEETING

YLCA is the Yorkshire Local Councils Association and our Parish Council is a member of that organisation. This gives us access to specialist training courses, advice on procedural matters and forums for discussing problems common to all parish and town councils as well as being able to submit comments for central government via the parent body, the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). You may recollect that the now famous Jackie Weaver is a member of staff for the Cheshire Association!

At this branch meeting we had the opportunity to pose questions to Cllr Carl Les (Leader of NYCC) and Wallace Sampson (HBC's Chief Executive). Having received written questions in advance, NYCC turned up in force with Cllr Don Mackenzie who is cabinet supremo for Highways and Karl Battersby (NYCC's new Director of Corporate Services). We received the same protracted answer as to how NYCC must work with HBC's Parameters Plan and won't tell us about any progress until they have finalised their ideas. Cllr Mackenzie would not be drawn on how/why they decided on a Killinghall bypass instead of what is required to handle all the traffic that is/will be generated by some 4000 homes to the west of Harrogate when at Killinghall there could be 1000 houses at most.

We're not letting it rest with such obfuscation. We want to know exactly what proposals have been suggested and what costs would have been involved. One would naturally assume that Parish, Borough and County Councils would work together to inform developers what they have to undertake so they may develop particular areas of land. Not so with HBC. They discuss first with the developers and have some contact with NYCC and only when they have come up with nearly final proposals do they even contact parish councils for comment. We did have some useful contact with traffic engineers but since one from HBC left, that has lapsed.

The other burning subject was the set-up of unitary authorities for North Yorkshire. Mr Sampson gave a clear reasoning why it should be an east/west split with the existing districts and York city becoming part of the eastern authority with roughly similar populations and overall economic parity. Cllr Les put forward a North Yorkshire Council and York city on its own with totally different populations and revenues. There were many similarities with both proposals showing savings but no mention was made of cutting staff other than by eliminating some duplication.

#### VACCINATIONS AGAINST COVID-19

Please remember that even if you have had your first jab which should give some degree of protection against hospitalisation if you contract Covid-19, you still need to observe social distancing, wash hands frequently and wear masks where appropriate. Please also be aware that joggers do not have automatic priority on footpaths, pavements or thoroughfares. One needs to respect those who are doing their best to conform to the rules.

Best wishes

Howard West, Chairman, [howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk)

and Dave Oswin, Deputy Chairman, and Councillors Cathy Burrell, Ian Birchall, Steve Cobb and Ryan Dall

For reference, the most recent newsletter is always posted on the Village Notice Board (at the Village Hall) and all newsletters are posted on the website here: <http://www.pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk/Documents.aspx>

Also, if you use Facebook, please join our group where you'll get any breaking news more quickly than through these periodic newsletters:

<https://www.facebook.com/Pannal-and-Burn-Bridge-Parish-Council-1655335551445518/>